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Cigs Held Likely Cause Of Cancer

Scientist Says
Death Rate Higher
For Smokers

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Post-Gazette Staff Writer

The former scientific director of the American Cancer Society yesterday told a Federal court jury here that national study showed lung cancer death rates for cigaret smokers were 64 times higher than for non-smokers.

Dr. Charles S. Cameron, now dean of Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, also declared that the lung cancer of Otto E. Pritchard, 61-year-old Brookline carpenter who is suing Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company for \$1,250,000, was linked to cigarets.

Picks Words Carefully

"In my opinion, it is probable that cigaret smoking caused it," Dr. Cameron testified, picking his words carefully.

Mr. Pritchard, through Attorney James P. McArdle, claims that some 25 years of heavy smoking, mostly Chesterfields, caused "epidermoid carcinoma (cancer), squamous cell type."

His right lung was removed late in 1953 by a Pittsburgh chest surgeon.

(Squamous cell, epidermoid carcinoma usually refers to that kind of cancer which arises on the surface lining of the lung among the plate-like cells.)

Dr. Cameron himself still smokes, he told reporters after testifying.

"Cigarets?" he was asked. "Yes, cigarettes," he replied. But Dr. Cameron amiably declined to say what brand.

On the witness stand, he told a jury of seven women and five men which is known to contain smokers, non-smokers, and those who quit smoking, that the Cancer Society studied 187,783 men, age

50 to 69 and presumably healthy, beginning in 1954.

But 44 months later, 7,316 died among those who smoked (not only cigarettes) regularly.

Higher Mortality Rate

This, said Dr. Cameron is 2,665 more than would have died if that group had the same rate of deaths as those who never smoked.

There were 4,406 deaths among smokers of cigarettes only.

Lung cancer claimed 448; of these, 319 had a "history of regular cigaret smoking."

Cross-examined by Defense Attorney Frederick P. Haas, a member of the tobacco firm's legal battery, Dr. Cameron was forced to admit that up until 1960 the American Cancer Society did not assert flatly that there was a "cause and effect" relationship between cigaret smoking and lung cancer. Also, that Dr. Cameron in recent years had asserted that cigaret smoking was but one of possible causes.

How this admission will affect the strategy of the tobacco firm's attorneys is not yet clear. However, Mr. McArdle has attacked Liggett & Myers advertising as being "deceitful" in not pointing out harmful effects of smoking.

It may be that defense attorneys later mean to underscore the fact that, while Mr. Pritchard's lung cancer was found in 1953, it was not until 1960 that the American Cancer Society itself felt confident enough to blame lung cancer directly on cigaret smoking.

"Do you believe that cancer can be caused by smoking?"

Mr. Haas asked Dr. Cameron, a handsome, gray-haired, young-looking man with a ruddy face.

"I think that you can state this within the degrees of probability," answered Dr. Cameron.

Mr. Haas persisted: "On the grounds of medical certainty in particular cases?"

"No," said Dr. Cameron quietly.

U. S. District Court Judge John L. Miller adjourned the trial, now in its fourth day, until Monday at 10 a.m.

At that time, Dr. Morton Levine of Roswell Park Memorial Institute, near Buffalo, and Dr. David Kendall, of Kendall Laboratories, N. J., are due to testify in Mr. Pritchard's behalf.

N. Y. Doctor Sees Cigaret, Cancer Link

Another cancer expert today testified that there is a relationship between cigaret smoking and lung cancer.

He is Dr. Morton L. Levin, head of the Epidemiology Department of Roswell Park Memorial Institute of Buffalo, the New York State cancer research hospital.

The purpose of his department, he explained, is to determine factors causing the disease by comparing records of those suffering from it and those who don't.

Dr. Levin was called by Attorney J. P. McArdle, representing Otto Pritchard, 61, Brookline cabinet maker, who is suing Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. for \$1,250,000.

PRITCHARD SAYS he got lung cancer from smoking the firm's Chesterfield cigarettes for about 25 years.

Of Pritchard's type of lung cancer, Dr. Levin said:

"I have not made a particular study of it... but I have not seen one case in a person who was not a smoker."

"There is a definite relationship between lung cancer and cigaret smoking as differentiated from pipe and cigar smokers."

"THIS EVIDENCE can only be interpreted to mean that smoking cigarettes materially increases chances of acquiring lung cancer."

"I conclude that, if everyone who smokes would quit, the lung cancer mortality rate would be reduced by 30 per cent."

The disease is most prevalent in persons over 65, he said, and the ratio between male and female sufferers is five to one, male.

He explained the difference by saying men smokers start earlier in life than women.

PRITCHARD underwent surgery in Pittsburgh for removal of a part of his right lung in 1953.

He accused the company of "deceitful advertising" which lulled smokers after smoking was "proved dangerous."

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